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## King County Council **Sheriff's Oversight Reforms**

Councilmember JULIA **PATTERSON** 

**Dear Neighbor:** 

Councilmember BOB **FERGUSON** 



**SPRING 2009** 

Over the years, we have collaborated on several government reform measures. After the historically close election in 2004, we worked on an election reform package which reinforced safeguards for tabulating votes, consolidated election facilities, and increased funding for election worker training. We also co-sponsored an independent management audit of the Elections Office, which led to additional reforms.

We are pleased to announce the implementation of another reform effort – establishment of the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight. The recent actions of a King County Sheriff's deputy that made local and national headlines affirms the importance of law enforcement oversight. Misconduct by individual law enforcement officers unfairly taints the overwhelming majority of deputies who serve our community daily with honor.

We started our oversight reform efforts in January 2006 and long after the media headlines faded, our work to implement these reforms continued. Sheriff Sue Rahr supported our legislation to implement civilian oversight of the Sheriff's Office and it was approved by the King County Council. These reforms will increase transparency in the complaint process and restore the public's trust. This newsletter provides you with details about the final results of our work.

Sincerely,

**Bob Ferguson** 

## Making Us Proud - Examples of Deputy Dedication



n September 4, 2008, Burien Officer Michael Glasgow was called after shots were fired and found two victims.

Glasgow, who was a combat medic in Iraq, aided the victim who had been shot in the chest."I knew

this type of chest wound required a chest seal," says Glasgow." I had one in my bag because I had previously gone to the fire department and asked if they would let me have one, just in case I ever needed one."

He got the second man stabilized and both victims safely on their way to the hospital. Had these victims not encountered Michael Glasgow, they might not have survived. For Glasgow's quick thinking, skill, and preparedness, he has been given the Lifesaver Award by the King County Sheriff's Department.



fter a local bank was robbed, Shoreline Detective Diana Magan started working leads and found similar cases in Tacoma. Lacey, Olympia, Federal Way, Renton, and Bellevue. She also contacted the FBI and then set up surveillances of the suspect using

detectives from multiple agencies.

The surveillance yielded information for a search warrant, an arrest, and even the ability to seize a Mercedes Benz the suspect had boldly purchased with cash from the Shoreline burglary.

Channel 13 and Washington's Most Wanted named Detective Diana Magan their Officer of the Month in January 2009.

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## Patterson & Ferguson Reform Law Enforcement Oversight

Old Oversight System	New Oversight System
No outside review of internal investigations	<ul> <li>Independent review for thoroughness and objectivity. This office will:</li> <li>directly receive citizen complaints</li> <li>monitor Sheriff's internal investigations to ensure proper resolution of complaints</li> </ul>
No formal citizen input on policies and procedures related to investigating alleged misconduct	Citizen panel to:  • provide input about oversight data and recommend improvements  • promote a dialogue between the Sheriff's Office and the public about the complaint process
No alternative dispute resolution process	New voluntary mediation option allows citizens and officers to meet to discuss and resolve their issues outside the formal investigation process
No annual public reports	Annual reports from the Office of Law Enforcement Oversight and Auditor's Office to:  • help identify unusual trends in investigation procedures that may warrant further review  • enhance the transparency and quality of internal investigations by suggesting corrective measures

## **LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE**

 Jan. 2006 – Councilmembers Ferguson and Patterson co-sponsored legislation to implement civilian oversight of Sheriff's Office.

Oct. 2006 – After months of briefings and stakeholder input, Council unanimously approves ordinance establishing civilian office of law enforcement oversight.

Nov. 2007 – The King County Executive and King County Police Officers Guild agree to delay implementation until reforms can be bargained into union contract.

-Nov. 2008 – Executive and Guild reach agreement on five-year contract that incorporates many aspects of Council's oversight reforms, and sends to Council for approval.

 Dec. 2008 – Council reaffirms its commitment to independent civilian oversight, and approves contract.

-May 2009 – Council enacts revised legislation to establish Office of Law Enforcement Oversight and calls for immediate implementation.



Ferguson and
Patterson want to
institute genuine civilian
oversight for the Sheriff's
Office. Accepting
the need for outside,
impartial review is long

overdue. 77

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